

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A specimen dispensing system comprising:

conveying means for conveying a master specimen container containing a specimen and a required number of empty slave specimen containers on a plurality of conveyor-lane lanes, the conveyor lanes being configured such that the master and slave specimen containers ~~being are~~ aligned in a conveyance direction;

~~stopping the conveying~~ means for temporarily stopping the master and slave specimen containers when the master and slave specimen containers reach a position under a dispensing nozzle in a dispensing unit; and

dispensing means for removing the specimen from the master specimen container by the dispensing nozzle when the master specimen container is temporarily stopped in the position under the dispensing nozzle ~~by the stopping means~~ and dispensing the specimen to the slave specimen containers when the slave specimen containers are temporarily stopped in the position under the dispensing nozzle, wherein the dispensing means is movable in a direction crossing the conveyor lanes.

2. (Currently Amended) The specimen dispensing system according to claim 1, further comprising a plurality of said dispensing means, wherein the dispensing means dispenses the specimen is dispensed to the slave specimen containers from the master specimen container on the conveyor lane concurrently with dispensing operations on other conveyor lanes.

3. (New) A specimen dispensing system comprising:

a conveying mechanism that conveys a master specimen container containing a specimen and a required number of empty slave specimen containers on a plurality of conveyor lanes, the conveyor lanes being configured such that the master and slave specimen containers are aligned in a conveyance direction; and

a dispensing unit including a dispensing nozzle, the dispensing unit removing the specimen from the master specimen container by the dispensing nozzle when the master specimen container is temporarily stopped under the dispensing nozzle, and the dispensing unit dispensing the specimen to the slave specimen containers when the slave specimen containers are temporarily stopped under the dispensing nozzle, wherein the dispensing unit is movable in a direction crossing the conveyor lanes.